

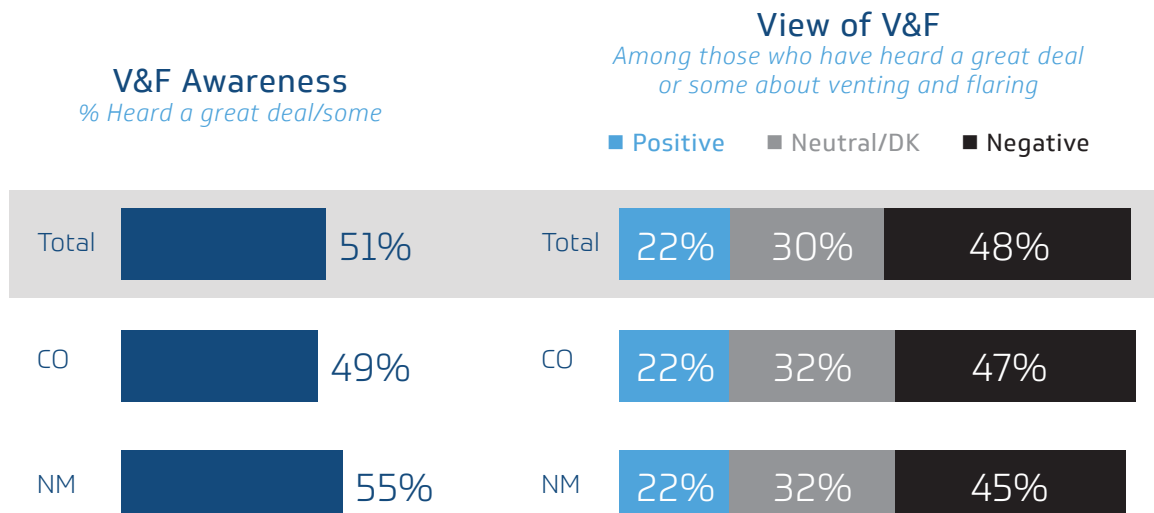
## Polling Results on Venting and Flaring

- Benenson Strategy Group recently conducted polling among likely 2014 general election voters in Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah regarding a potential Bureau of Land Management rule on venting and flaring.
- More than two-thirds of voters in these states support a rule that would “require oil companies to significantly reduce the amount of natural gas they release or burn off into the air when they extract oil from public lands.”
  - Initial support for the potential rule stands at 69% overall; 38% strongly support it.
    - 22% oppose the rule.
- Support for the rule crosses party lines; even among Republicans, a 57% majority supports it, and just 31% oppose. Across gender, age and race, support never dips below 65%.

### Initial Support for Proposed Rule

Total Support	
Colorado	71
New Mexico	65
North Dakota/Utah	68
Democrats	80
Independents	72
Republicans	57

- Just over half of voters in these states have heard about venting and flaring, and those who know about it tend to have a negative view.



- Underpinning this support are near-universal beliefs that:
  - We must ensure “oil companies don’t damage the air we breathe, the water we rely on, and the land owned by the American public”: Overall, 81% say it is a very important priority (95% say it is very or somewhat important).
  - Companies should “pay their fair share to taxpayers for the resources they take from public lands”: Overall, 75% say it is very important priority (93% say it is very or somewhat important).
  
- Voters in these states also understand the need for regulations that protect public safety.

Best describes how you feel about drilling for oil and gas in your state	Total	CO	NM
Drilling for oil and gas is <b>inherently safe and the government needs to get out of the way</b> so companies can develop America’s own energy resources	28%	28%	34%
Drilling for oil and gas needs to be <b>tightly regulated to ensure it is done safely</b> and that the families of your state are protected	56%	56%	51%
Drilling for oil and gas is <b>too big a threat</b> to our environment, water supply, and safety and <b>should not be allowed</b>	12%	12%	11%

- Support for the rule remains high even in the face of strong opposition messaging. After a series of arguments in favor of and against the rule, support ends up at 63% with just 31% opposing.

Benenson Strategy Group conducted 750 telephone interviews – 250 in CO, 250 in NM, 125 in ND, and 125 in UT – with likely 2014 general election voters from September 2nd to September 7th, 2014. The margin of error for the entire sample is ±3.5% at the 95% confidence level, and is larger for subgroups. The state-level data is for directional use only: the margin of error is ±6.2% in Colorado, New Mexico, and North Dakota/Utah. Due to rounding, answer choices may not always add up to 100%.